

5 Ways to Support Transgender Youth at Your School or Agency

1. **Keep an open mind** and respect youth's ways of presenting and expressing their gender.
2. **Implement practices to ensure safety and comfort**, such as using the youth's chosen name and pronoun and identifying single-stall, gender-neutral bathrooms and a safe place for them to change for gym.
3. **Do not "out" anyone without permission.** You can help them think through the coming out process, but the decision belongs to the individual.
4. **Include gender identity** in your non-discrimination policy.
5. **Seek outside resources** such as the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (www.nyacyouth.org) for more information.

This card is a collaboration of **The GLBT Youth Support Project (GLYS)**,
a program of **HCSM, Inc.**, and Greenfield GLASS.
GLYS: www.hcsm.org/glys.htm ▼ GLASS: www.fcac.net

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5 Facts to Remember About Transgender Youth

1. Physical safety is often a major concern. High-risk places include bathrooms, locker rooms, and other gender-designated areas.
2. A person who identified as transgender feels that the gender they were assigned at birth does not fit them. They may identify as the other gender, both gender, or neither gender.
3. Some youth who identify as transgender first come out as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. A person who is transgender may be anywhere on the continuum of sexual orientation.
4. Persons who are transgender may or may not choose to access surgery and hormones. Adolescents who want these options must be referred to a medical professional with experience in gender identity issues for evaluation.
5. The coming out process is different – and often more difficult – than for GLB youth.

For more information and resources go to: www.hcsm.org/glvs.htm

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